

CONNECTIONS

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SPRING ISSUE

NATURAL CONSTRUCT Available Soon for IBM Environments



Jim O'Leary
Product Manager

The introduction of NATURAL in 1979 and NATURAL 2 in 1987 produced quantum improvements in software development productivity. The release in January of the NATURAL CONSTRUCT application generator for VAX environments, and the upcoming June release for IBM environments, represent important new milestones. With NATURAL CONSTRUCT, NATURAL developers can prototype and develop common business applications in a fraction of the time previously required. This exciting new extension of the NATURAL development environment will change the way NATURAL application systems are developed in the future.

CASE Comes to Software AG

NATURAL CONSTRUCT is the first in Software AG's new line of Computer Aided Software Engineering (CASE) products, the NATURAL Engineering Series. The goal of the NATURAL Engineering Series is to provide automated support for the entire software development life cycle, from application planning through maintenance. NATURAL CONSTRUCT brings automation to the implementation and maintenance phases by providing the ability to generate NATURAL applications.

Programs produced by NATURAL CONSTRUCT can be used in pro-

duction "as is," or may be modified to accommodate the needs of a particular application. In the latter case, NATURAL CONSTRUCT serves as a potent prototype tool for generating fully functional, first-cut applications, quickly. NATURAL CONSTRUCT is far more than just a prototyping system, however, as evidenced by its past use in the development of several commercial application packages, as well as a large number of customized applications.

Generating NATURAL Applications

NATURAL CONSTRUCT is based

on the observation that most application programs are variations of a small number of common program types, represented in NATURAL CONSTRUCT as program "models." Each model consists of a combination of standard NATURAL statements, which specify the basic program structure and control flow of the program, and NATURAL CONSTRUCT generator statements, which specify open characteristics, such as what data base files and maps are used, or whether audit trail logging is desired.

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President's Message



Carlo A. Scagnelli
Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corporation

Having just seen a video of myself in Miami, you are all to be commended for your ability to endure such torture (and I didn't have to watch a 20 foot screen as well). I vow that Nashville will be much shorter both to your benefit (and mine).

There seems to be a misunderstanding as to how to form a SIG (Special Interest Group). A SIG is a group of users with common interests who formalize their relationship as a viable entity within SAGGROUP. To initiate the process, a user com-

municates with the SAGGROUP Elected Product Representative indicating the purpose of the SIG, its aims, goals etc. The SIG is tentatively approved if a group with similar interests does not already exist. It is incumbent on the initiator to prepare a Connections article with the goal of getting other users to join the SIG. At the next International Users' Conference, the 'chairperson' can petition for permanent status again through the related SAGGROUP Product Representative. The petition will be approved IF the SIG proves that it is active and viable. Note that the SIG is established through SAGGROUP, not Software AG and all contact must be made through your elected representatives, not Software AG personnel.

I've received several newsletters from SIGs and regions over the past few months with an outstanding effort from the Eastern Regional VAX

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